Organizations representing the cotton batting industry have honored Nestor B. Knoepfler, New Orleans chemical engineer, with an award for his part in the development of a new batting product.

Knoepfler was honored Thursday at the fifth annual Cotton Utilization Conference at the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel.

The improved batting, Cotton Flote, has greater resilience than ordinary batting, holds its shape better and has greater cohesion. It also resists moisture and can be molded into any desired shape.

The automobile industry has been one of the principal outlets for cotton batting, but its use for this purpose declined about 60,000 bales between 1951 and 1961 because of the increasing use of foam rubber and polyurethane foams.

**NEW HOPE FOR PRODUCT**

New hope for cotton batting to regain a large portion of the market is seen with the development of Cotton Flote.

One automobile manufacturer is already using the product, and others are evaluating the batting. Leading members of the bedding and furniture industries have expressed interest.

Cotton Flote was developed at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Utilization Research and Development Division in New Orleans.

Presentation to Knoepfler was made by William G. Davis, executive secretary of the National Cotton Batting Institute on behalf of the NCBI, the Textile Waste Association and the National Cottonseed Products Association.

**MAJOR HELP TO COTTON**

Two developments that will be a "major help to cotton in its competition with man-made fibers" were announced at the conference.

C. H. Fisher, director of the Southern Utilization Research and Development of Agriculture, named the improvements as the increase in the wear-life of permanently creased garments and the development of a stretchable lace.

"The sensation of the textile industry today," he said, "is the durable press garment that retains a smooth, ironed appearance as well as creases where they are wanted, even after laundering and tumble-drying."

"However," he added, "we have had problems in the past with the life of these fabrics. They have been known to fray and tatter faster than fabrics that require pressing."

**TREATMENT OF FABRIC**

"The answer has been found in two methods of chemical treatment of the fabric," he said.

The stretch lace, according to Fisher, is a totally new concept in the cotton industry, as well as a new product.

"The processing lends luxurious aesthetic properties to lace and inexpensive lace takes on a three-dimensional aspect of interesting imported cotton lace after it has been treated," he said.

E. H. Daruwalla, professor of textile chemistry at the University of Bombay in India, will discuss findings involving the action of light on cotton with respect to loss in the strength of the material.